

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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1. The part of East Prussia (now Olsztyn Voivodship) which was annexed to Poland after World War II, was [redacted] officially listed as having 300,000 Germans residing there. [redacted] there could not be much more than 30,000 [redacted]

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2. In 1946 [redacted] the Russians and Poles had abused the Germans and treated them like prisoners in a conquered land. Since then, [redacted] the situation between the Poles and the Germans had steadily improved because of their mutual misery under the yoke of the Communists. Nevertheless, and in spite of official directives, there was some prejudice remaining. Official directives originating from the Council of State (Rada Panstwa) and issued by the voivodship authorities, directed all state enterprises not only to see that the Germans were given fair play but to deliberately distinguish some by promotions and privileges in their jobs.

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3. Most of the Germans who remained in the Olsztyn Voivodship lived in the rural areas and were attached to their lands. Their holdings were steadily decreased until none had more than the maximum allowed, i.e., eleven hectares. [redacted]

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4. In the late forties [redacted] the Germans who applied to leave Poland were beaten and robbed, and only mass transports of old "unproductive" people and children were permitted to leave. There were transports still leaving Poland every other month [redacted]

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[redacted] These transports contained old "unproductive" people, children of East German residents, and some C. P. members' relatives. [redacted] an occasional "bribe" case also managed to get out [redacted] left Poland [redacted] in a transport of about 200 people from all over Poland. The transport assembled in Szczecin for East Germany. [redacted]

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5. [redacted] only one outstanding Communist in the Olsztyn Voivodship who was a German. He (name unknown) was a member of the Polish Sejm (Parliament) but was considered a rarity and was only in his late twenties. [redacted] prewar German Communists of East Prussia were disenchanted and bitter [redacted] no Communist who had been one before the war. [redacted] there was little chance of converting anyone to Communism who had had a prewar upbringing [redacted] it was the official feeling to consider that an almost hopeless task. The policy was to keep the peace, exploit the German populace's productive abilities and concentrate on their children. [redacted] the school was the one means whereby the children could be brought up as the regime desires. German children were successfully being brought up not only as Poles but as Communists. [redacted]

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6. The U. B. (Urząd Bezpieczeństwa - Security Administration) had extensive files on the German populace. On the basis of past anti-Polish activities and attitudes they often blackmailed Germans into becoming informants or recruited them for other tasks. Volksdeutsche, who were numerous in East Prussia because of Polish-German mixtures, were also exploited by the U. B.

7. There were no German schools, clubs or organizations permitted in the Olsztyn voivodship. [redacted] in 1951 in the village of Buchwald near the city of Olsztyn, a group of young German men was arrested and sentenced to jail for singing old German (non-political) songs. [redacted] most of them were eventually released.

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8. [redacted] while the regime would never trust the average German in the Polish Army, it nevertheless recruited Germans and sent them to coal mines or some other industry for manual labor after basic training. Poles of questionable political attitudes were treated the same way. [redacted]

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9. In Silesia the situation was quite different. [redacted]

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10. [] the Germans had little hope of liberation, felt they could do nothing about the situation and were concentrating on self-preservation awaiting the day on which the West would bring them relief from oppression. Even in that day of clash or emergency [] the best thing the Germans could do was to hide in forests to avoid the Russians who would send them East to labor and concentration camps.

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